

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN JANUARY 2005

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in January was 3.07 million metric tons (Mt), which was 6% higher than in the previous month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Production was slightly higher compared with January 2004.

Phosphate rock sold or used in January for the Florida and North Carolina region was 2.41 Mt. In the Idaho and Utah region, 430,000 metric tons of phosphate rock was used in January, which was 4% lower than in December 2004. Total phosphate rock sold or used for January 2005 was 8% lower than in January 2004. U.S. producer stocks were slightly higher than in December 2004.

Imports of phosphate rock were estimated based on U.S. Census Bureau figures and data from the Moroccan producer, because Census suppressed some phosphate rock import data for Morocco, the largest supplier to the United States. In addition, Census trade data were not available for the current month. The USGS estimated that imports of phosphate rock averaged about 210,000 metric tons per month in 2004.

Domestic apparent consumption in 2004 was 38.3 Mt, which was slightly higher than in 2003. Initial estimates indicate that apparent consumption in 2005 could be 35.9 Mt based on annualized sales and use data and estimated imports.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production			Sold and/or used			Ending stocks ²		
	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total	Florida and North Carolina	Idaho and Utah	U.S. total
2004:									
January	2,720	335	3,060	2,660	424	3,080	5,390	2,000	7,390
February	2,580	343	2,920	2,420	454	2,870	5,530	1,820	7,350
March	2,860	339	3,200	2,550	434	2,980	5,750	1,720	7,470
April	2,600	335	2,940	2,640	415	3,050	5,720	1,640	7,360
May	2,700	525	3,220	2,720	384	3,110	5,680	1,780	7,460
June	2,550	524	3,070	2,470	338	2,800	5,750	1,840	7,590
July	2,700	466	3,160	2,810	426	3,210	5,750	1,880	7,630
August	2,120	542	2,660	2,480	505	2,980	5,430	1,920	7,340
September	1,760	549	2,310	1,880	406	2,280	5,150	2,060	7,210
October	2,170	539 ^r	2,710 ^r	2,390	W	W	W	W	7,180
November	W	W	3,530 ^r	W	W	3,630 ^r	W	W	7,170
December	W	W	2,900	W	446 ^r	W	W	W	7,020
January-December	30,300	5,390 ^r	35,700	30,800	5,030 ^r	35,800	XX	XX	XX
2005:									
January	W	W	3,070	2,410	430	2,840	W	W	7,130

^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value
2003:		
December	88	2,430
January-December	1,290 ^r	45,100 ^r
Total year ³	2,400	84,000
2004: ⁴		
January	174	5,950
February	100	3,680
March	145	5,580
April	28	760
May	180	6,650
June	146	5,700
July	63	1,720
August	157	6,030
September	118	4,990
October	137	5,240
November	80	2,190
December	150	5,470
January-December	1,480	54,000
Total year ³	2,500	91,300

^rRevised.

¹Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes an estimate for data suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

⁴Data for the current month were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2003	2004	2005 ^{e, 1}
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	29.1	30.3	32.8
Idaho and Utah	5.0	5.4	3.4
Total ²	34.1	35.7	36.2
Sold or used by producers:			
Florida and North Carolina	30.2	30.8	28.3
Idaho and Utah	5.2	5.0	5.1
Total ²	35.4	35.8	33.4
Yearend stocks	7.3	7.0	7.1
Exports reported by producers	W	--	--
Average value per ton	W	NA	NA
Imports for consumption ^e	2.4	2.5	2.5
Average value per ton	\$35.55	\$36.50	NA
Apparent consumption ^{e, 3}	37.8	38.3	35.9

^eEstimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- Zero.

¹Annualized data.

²Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

³Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports.